

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

35. (previously presented) An orthopedic implant, comprising:

a base member having a lower surface, an upper surface, and at least one aperture;

a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being adjacent said base member in one of an infinite number of positions wherein said opening communicates with one of said apertures of said base member;

a fixation member having a first portion for attachment to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said fixation member extending through said stabilizer and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts said stabilizer;

a washer having a rounded top, said washer being around said second threaded part of said fixation member; and

a nut threaded onto said second threaded part of said fixation member, whereby said fixation member, said stabilizer and said base member can be locked relative to each other.

36. (currently amended) The implant of claim 35, further comprising at least one additional stabilizer each having an opening therethrough, said at least one additional stabilizer further having at least one lateral finger abutting said base member, wherein said at least one additional stabilizer is in one of an infinite number of positions such that said opening of said at least one additional stabilizer communicates with an aperture of said ~~longitudinal~~ base member.

37. (currently amended) The implant of claim 36, further comprising at least one additional fixation member each having a first portion for fixing to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said at least one additional fixation member extending through a corresponding one of said at least one additional stabilizers and said ~~longitudinal~~ base member so that said enlarged portion contacts a portion of said corresponding stabilizer.

38. (previously presented) The implant of claim 35, wherein said nut includes a break-off portion that is severed when a torque exceeding a predetermined amount is applied to said break-off portion.

39. (previously presented) The implant of claim 35, wherein at least a portion of said stabilizer is between said upper and lower surfaces of said base member.

40-68. (withdrawn by Examiner)

69. (new) An orthopedic implant, comprising:

a base member having a lower surface, an upper surface, and at least one aperture;

a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being adjacent said base member in one of an infinite number of positions wherein said opening communicates with one of said apertures of said base member;

a fixation member having a first portion for attachment to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said fixation member extending

through said stabilizer and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts said stabilizer within said opening;

a washer having a rounded top, said washer being around said second threaded part of said fixation member; and

a nut threaded onto said second threaded part of said fixation member, whereby said fixation member, said stabilizer and said base member can be locked relative to each other.

70. (new) The implant of claim 69, further comprising at least one additional stabilizer each having an opening therethrough, said at least one additional stabilizer further having at least one lateral finger abutting said base member, wherein said at least one additional stabilizer is in one of an infinite number of positions such that said opening of said at least one additional stabilizer communicates with an aperture of said base member.

71. (new) The implant of claim 70, further comprising at least one additional fixation member each having a first portion for fixing to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said at least one additional fixation member extending through a corresponding one of said at least one additional stabilizers and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts a portion of said corresponding stabilizer.

72. (new) The implant of claim 69, wherein said nut includes a break-off portion that is severed when a torque exceeding a predetermined amount is applied to said break-off portion.

73. (new) The implant of claim 69, wherein at least a portion of said stabilizer is between said upper and lower surfaces of said base member.

74. (new) An orthopedic implant, comprising:

a base member having a lower surface, an upper surface, and at least one aperture;

a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being adjacent said base member in one of an infinite number of positions wherein said opening communicates with one of said apertures of said base member;

a fixation member having a first portion for attachment to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate rounded diametrically enlarged portion, said fixation member extending through said stabilizer and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts said stabilizer;

a washer having a rounded top, said washer being around said second threaded part of said fixation member; and

a nut threaded onto said second threaded part of said fixation member, whereby said fixation member, said stabilizer and said base member can be locked relative to each other.

75. (new) The implant of claim 74, further comprising at least one additional stabilizer each having an opening therethrough, said at least one additional stabilizer further having at least one lateral finger abutting said base member, wherein said at least one additional stabilizer is in one of an infinite number of positions such that said opening of said at least one additional stabilizer communicates with an aperture of said base member.

76. (new) The implant of claim 75, further comprising at least one additional fixation member each having a first portion for fixing to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said at least one additional fixation member extending through a corresponding one of said at least one additional stabilizers and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts a portion of said corresponding stabilizer.

77. (new) The implant of claim 74, wherein said nut includes a break-off portion that is severed when a torque exceeding a predetermined amount is applied to said break-off portion.

78. (new) The implant of claim 74, wherein at least a portion of said stabilizer is between said upper and lower surfaces of said base member.